

Message Text

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64

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 /015 W

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R 041610Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2259

ABIDJAN FOR RSO AND RBFO

E.O. 11652: XGDS (3)

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, AFIN, AFSP, MR

SUBJ: NEW RUSSIAN EMBASSY COMPOUND

1. EXTERIOR OF NEW THREE-LEVEL SOVIET EMBASSY COMPLEX IS NEARING COMPLETION. NEW SOVIET COMPOUND HAS DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT OVER DISTANCE OF ROUGHLY HALF MILE TO LIVING QUARTERS AND CHANCERY OFFICE BUILDING IN US MISSION COMPOUND, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO WINDOWS OF AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE AND LIVING QUARTERS. LINE OF SIGHT IS ONLY PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY TREES AND HEDGES GROWING ON US PROPERTY. IT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR THAT WE ARE NOW OR SOON WILL BE VULNERABLE TO PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ELECTRONIC SNOOPING BY SOVIETS.

2. WITH SOPHISTICATION OF PRESENT DAY LONG-DISTANCE LISTENING GEAR, COMPLETION OF BASIC STRUCTURE OF SOVIET COMPLEX PRESENTS A PROBLEM FOR SECURITY OF OUR CHANCERY OFFICES AND OF MISSION STAFF WORKING AND LIVING IN COMPOUND.

3. WE HAVE ALREADY PLANTED 15 TREES PARALLEL TO REAR WALL, AND HAVE TAKEN FIRST STEPS TO PLANT CLOSELY-SPACED PINE SCREEN ALONG REAR PROPERTY LINE. BUT CAPABILITY OF GREEN SCREEN TO OBSTRUCT LINE OF SIGHT IS SEVERAL YEARS AWAY, AND EFFECTIVENESS IS PROBABLY LIMITED TO COUNTERING EYEBALL OR PHOTO SURVEILLANCE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE RSO ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY HAZARD
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AND SUGGESTIONS OF OTHER REMEDIAL ACTIONS WE MIGHT TAKE.

ANY COUNTERMEASURES WHICH REQUIRE MORE THAN MINIMAL
EXPENDITURES WILL REQUIRE SY FUNDING SINCE THE EMBASSY'S
DEFICIENT BUDGET POSITION PRECLUDES FINANCING OF ANY
NEW PROJECTS.HANDYSIDE

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